Fuels Mitigation Measures:

Roadsides are important areas for fuels reduction and fire suppression activities. Roads are often used in strategically placing fuel breaks, for back burn and holding operations during fire suppression actions, and for prescribed burning operations. Post fire, trees will fall for many years. Decay rates of different size class of trees primarily determine which size trees fall first. The smaller diameter trees typically start falling the first year post fire. Wind, snow, rain and beetle infestations can affect these rates. In a post fire environment, fire damage will also determine how and when trees fall. Trees that have fallen (whether naturally or by management for hazard reduction) accumulate on the ground as surface fuels. As vegetation (primarily shrubs in the first few years) begin to grow back, the combination of surface fuels and vegetation regrowth create conditions that will impede on future fire suppression capabilities. The proposed action is to remove trees that are a hazard to the road only. It's important to remove the roadside hazard trees being cut. This will help in the reduction of the fire risk created by leaving these trees along roadsides. Not only does the increase in surface fuel loads pose difficulty for fire suppression activities, but they can pose a safety hazard to firefighting resources and the public as they are using these routes as ingress or egress during a fire. These trees being identified as hazards under this project should be removed so as not to create excessive surface fuel loadings that will only add to the trees that will fall naturally that are not being removed as a hazard tree. Removal from project area can be in the forms of biomass utilization, commercial log sales, or burned in piles, jackpot burning and/or understory burning depending on location and condition.

Fuels prescription:

Commercial: trees removed via whole tree yarding is preferable where possible, any excessive fuels left from removal of hazard trees can be mechanically treated (i.e. chip, pile, masticate, yarding), removed as biomass, hand piled, jackpot piled, pile burned, jackpot burned and/or removed with an understory burn.

Non-commercial: 1) mechanical treatment of hazard trees - cut and yard, mechanically treat (i.e. chip, pile, masticate, yarding), pile burn, jackpot burn, understory burn. 2) hand treatment of hazard trees- cut and pile, remove to roadside/mechanical areas to chip, remove as biomass, pile burn, jack pot burn, understory burn.

Where slash and trees need to be left to meet ground cover and cwd requirements, surface fuel loading may be retained and not to exceed CWD >20" = 5-10 tons/acre + 4-5 tons/acre of material < 3".